(b) The maximum amount of assistance given to each Madarsa is as follows:—

(i) Salary of one teacher @ Rs. 2200/- p.m.

(ii) Assistance for purchase of Science/Maths Kits—Rs. 4,000/- one time grant. The grant is annual for the Eighth Five Year Plan only.

Hike in prices of paper

4936. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that frequent and steep hike in prices of paper has made books and notebooks costlier for students;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of hike in price of paper, the quality of paper used in note books deteriorated and many books disappeared from the markets and their reprint rendered difficult;

(c) whether Government have gone into the causes of the steep hike in prices of papers; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ease the position at least for the student community?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) and (b) As per study conducted by NCERT by and large presently there is no/marginal increase in the price of textbooks published by NCERT/ State Governments, though some increase in prices of books published privately has been observed .

(c) nd (d) Ministry of Industry have informed that price of paper have increased on account of rise in cost of coal, power, caustic soda, imported pulp and other raw materials. There is no statutory control over price of paper. Prices are determined by market forces. However, Government is keeping watch over the situation for safeguarding the interests of students.

Women benefited from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh in Gujarat

4937. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women benefited and the number of organisations to whom loans have been given from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh in Gujarat State during 1994-95;

(b) whether Government have plan to increase the activities of the Kosh in the years so as to cover more women during the Eighth Plan Period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) Rashtriya Mahla Kosh has not extended credit limit to any organisation in Gujarat during 1994-95.

(b) and (c) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh has planned to cover about 2 lakhs poor women beneficiaries below the poverty line during the first six years.

For increasing its activities, Rashtrya Mahila Kosh had organised 20 workshops/exposure training programmes all over the country to spread awareness on the Rashtriya